

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated August 4, 2004. Appreciation is expressed for the indication that claims 2-9 and 15-25 are allowable.

By the present Amendment, claim 25 has been amended to overcome the claim objection set forth on page 3 of the Office Action. Accordingly, removal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Also by the present Amendment, a new Abstract has been added for purposes of simplification and clarification (noting that the new Abstract corresponds to the 150 word maximum word length set forth in 37 CFR § 1.72).

Reconsideration and removal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claim 1 based on claim 24 of copending Application No. 10/375,241 is also respectfully requested. With regard to this, it is assumed that it is a typographical error in the Office Action in identifying the copending Application No. as being 10/037,241. In other words, it is assumed that what was actually intended was the copending Continuation Application No. 10/375,241, filed on March 28, 2003. If this is not the case, clarification in the next Office Action is respectfully requested.

In any event, assuming that the present Office Action actually intended to refer to copending Continuation Application No. 10/375,241, a Terminal Disclaimer regarding this Continuation application is submitted herewith. Although the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 of the present application defines a separate patentable invention from claim 24 of copending Application No.

10/375,241, in order to expedite allowance of the present application, the Terminal Disclaimer is submitted herewith to obviate this rejection. Therefore, entry of the Terminal Disclaimer, and removal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection, is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 843.39887X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A